Princeton

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R. E. Speer
Letters to father. v. 1 1885-86

knew of you.

Old Keystone Mills

Huntingdon, Pa.,
August 1, 1885.

Dear Papa,

The goods came all right and are nearly enough exact to keep.

Will came down last evening from Hollidaysburg at four oclock and left at ten oclock. Craig McLanahan was with him. Craig is going to Philadelphia and then to Cape May.

A nephew of Mrs. Garrettson, whose name is Welch, was ~~killed~~ hurt on the rail road. His foot was cut off.

Next Wednesday a party

of us boys is going up the branch to fish and shoot.

Will took the town paper and said he would give them to you at Atlantic City.

Lottie Finley has been staying with Meg for a few days. She went back to Mr. Olds's yesterday.

There is nothing going on and we are getting along all right.

With much love,
Your son,
Rob.

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NASSAU HOTEL.

A. D. COOK, Proprietor.

Princeton, N. J., Sept. 15, 188

Dear Papa,

Have not settled down yet as my box has not arrived, nor my carpet con from Philadelphia.

I can not yet send an estimate of expenses as it is not time to pay bills.

Called on Florence at the West End, but she was not there. Called and saw Jannie Blandy. Met a Mr. North here to day from Lancaster. He knew or knew of you.

It is a very pretty place here, but it is too warm now to inspect all of it.

I took the Greek examination this morning in Homer. Latin came this afternoon.

There are four boys here from Andover now beside myself and some more will come before long. I do not feel as lonely as I might when I know some one.

Love to all,

Your son,

Rob.

Princeton, N. J.
Sept. 22, 18[illegible]

Dear Papa.

It is beginning to seem natural here now, and it seems much more homelike from the fact that there are so many boys here who know people whom I know than [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

There is a Young Coal here from Arch Spring and [illegible] from Alle[illegible] and Irvine from Bedford, [illegible] from Rock Haven and Porth from [illegible]

I have paid my bill [illegible] the treasurer's office. [illegible] was one hundred and forty-five dollars. The items were:

Board	49	
Washing	7	
Tuition	40	
Room Rent	22	
Fuel Deposit	7	
Public Rooms &c.	15	
Entrance	5	$14[illegible]

My furniture and carpet and every thing about the rooms cost about eighty dollars.

My board was not so dear as I expected. Three of us boys who went to Andover, went to a club here. The price is not so high as I expected to pay, but

if the food is fully
as good and plentiful
as I ever got at An-
dover, and I should
have preferred to have
gone to it at any
rate; inasmuch as
the other two boys
from Andover went.
The price is $3.50 per
week, quite a reduction
on the Massachusetts
price. Of course if the
board gets poorer we
can change and go
to another club.

Have not had time
to exercise much but
the compulsory classes
begin before long
at the Gymnasium
under the care of a

Dr. McCosh is a typical
Scotchman white [illegible]
and hair, stooping [illegible]
[illegible]. He [illegible]
last Sunday on, "Hea[illegible]
I give unto you [illegible]
[illegible] I leave [illegible]
you." or vice versa, [illegible]
forget how it read.
Now that we are at
work the time flies
more swiftly than
pleasant to think of.
With much love,
Your son,
Rob

Princeton, N. J.
October 2, 1[illegible]

Dear Papa,

I received today a Tribune from Mary with an account of the Da[illegible] port trial. It had also an article on the [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I showed it to [illegible] [illegible] my class, whose father is pastor there. He was not [illegible] pleased to see the paternal name in [illegible]. North who was here at first, is here no longer. I presume he could not pass [illegible]

aminations; which were rather difficult.

The rivalry of whig and [illegible] holds to obtain the larger number of the entering class is very marked and we have to bear the brunt of the struggle because we [illegible] the things sought. There have been eight or nine tack to me in one day about this.

The hazing has died [illegible] natural death hastened perhaps by the Faculty and the New York papers. Of course, it will be born again next fall and as surely [illegible] again.

I have not played [illegible] base any yet but have

have played [illegible] some.
I went to hear Dr. Waldstein of Cambridge University, England, lecture on the "Province, Method and Aims of the Study of Classic Archaeology". It was rather deep at times but I struggled through and carried away a distinct idea of his "fatalistic evolution", pronouncing it, as he did, with several very long [illegible].
Attendance at the [illegible] is compulsory. Formerly it was not, but now and henceforth the Sophomores and Freshmen must attend three days a week and [illegible] through the [illegible]

routine work. It is not
time for some enterprising
paper to accuse
Princeton of so worshi-
ping Athletics as to
take them into the
curriculum.

With much love
Your son
Rob

[illegible]

Oct. 9, 188[illegible].

[illegible]

The examinations [illegible] division of the Freshman [illegible] come next [illegible]. I shall, of course, [illegible] for the first division as, apart from other [illegible], the [illegible] the first examination largely determines a man's stand through [illegible]

The Sophomore Freshman struggle has calmed [illegible] and a "Fresh" can [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible]

To night is the time that the Halls initiate their men. Some of the fresh and green ones look forward with fear to the dread occasion. Literary Halls are institutions which Yale and Harvard all [illegible] fully one half the course here, although of course not more than half the stud[illegible] avail themselves of the privileges. [illegible] independ of the [illegible] they have done [illegible]

reputation.

Mr. Lemmons here that perhaps more orthodox in an old Presbyterian [illegible] are not so good as the ones we heard at Andover. Profs. [illegible] Duffield and Dr. Murray [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for.

There is a very pleasant requirement here. Not in chapel on Sunday afternoons at five o'clock. It comes at a good time, just before supper, and the services are always interesting and refreshing.

I received a letter [illegible] day from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
October [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] this morning on the [illegible] [illegible] is not a very [illegible] professor, which may [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] every [illegible] afternoon at four.

The trees are [illegible] their hues. I can see the yellow and red leaves on many trees. [illegible] last week [illegible]

Indian summer weather.
I went to the Methodist
Church this evening
hear the Rev. Mr. McCa[illegible]
He is more a curiosity
than a preacher. His
language flows well
enough, but it is [illegible]
very spread-eagle tho[illegible]
it is absurd. He sp[illegible]
of "the white dove of [illegible]
lousness with its [illegible]
of spotless purity ali[illegible]
ing upon the lintel
of the soul." "The [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] with a chestnut
brown than &c."
Prof. Johnston's bible
class is very interesting.
I went the [illegible]
[illegible].

the nine o'clock bell is
[illegible]
not know, nor does any
one. It means nothing,
and, I suppose, is merely the perpetuation of
some old custom of
ringing the bell for
study hour. At Andover
the bell rang at eight.
Here your own wish
is at once the bell
and the measure of
study

Drs. McCosh, Murray
and Duffield conduct a
[illegible]
in chapel this afternoon

With much love
Your son,
[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
October 22, 18[illegible]

Dear Papa,

Some of the trees are bare, the "sere and yellow leaves" having fallen. To day [illegible] of winter and even the moon light of the evening seems chilly.

I sent you a New York [illegible] with a Princeton letter in it. You will see that I am in the first division which contains the twenty highest stand men in the class. [illegible] class. President [illegible] a meeting of which I have nothing until after its [illegible]

tion of choosing me president
I had been offered the off[illegible]
before and had refused;
to say the least, it is [illegible]
policy to accept such [illegible]
the Freshman year. And
had I known of this
[illegible] I should have
fused the office again.
There has been a [illegible]
[illegible] of weather [illegible]
[illegible]
wind. The change has [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
than a brother, the [illegible]
I mean, not the [illegible]
Dr. Hopper preached [illegible]
[illegible] weeks ago. [illegible]
forgot to tell you. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

not spoke to him as [illegible]
[illegible] of my having seen
him in Huntingdon did
not seem sufficient inte-
duction to me. Had it
been at Andover, I sho
without doubt have called
on him.

The Theologues, or as they
call them here, "Seminal"
[illegible]
the college boys. There are
they say, about two [illegible]
men in the Seminary but
I have not seen half a
dozen to recognize them
as embryo ministers. At
Andover if you saw a
theologue you knew what
it was immediately.

With much love,

Your son,

Princeton, N. J.
Sept. 27, [illegible]

Dear Papa.

The New York papers have been giving Princeton quite a bad reputation for hazing the various criminal and brutal outrages. On a very slight basis of fact they have built up quite an interesting but very false story.

Dear Thursday presented an excellent sermon this morning on the effect of association [illegible]

son, instructor in Geo[illegible]
conducted the after-
noon chapel.
I just returned from
[illegible] meeting. The effect
of such meetings [illegible]
especially those con-
ducted by the [illegible]
is so very different
from that of those
I saw and felt in
New England. There is
almost hypocrisy. Per-
haps it is only [illegible]
[illegible].
I met a young [illegible]
here, [illegible] [illegible]
from [illegible]
father is the [illegible]
Episcopalian preacher
there. He [illegible]
me that [illegible]
to know if my [illegible]

was Speer. When it took him yet, he wanted to know whether I was a son of Hon. R. Mitton" it told him yes and we were friends.

Aaron Burr and his father are both buried here. The elder Burr was President of the College once and Aaron graduated here. There are many romantic stories and traditions hovering about here, and there are, doubtless, many "untold tales."

I have had neither time nor inclination to read these far. [illegible]

house is what bring
opportunity to read
and study. I like ev
[illegible] and dislike it.
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
[illegible]

Dear Papa,

The damp New Jersey air and the irregular weather are very partial to colds, and I have one which seems determined to cling. I was down at Lawrenceville on Saturday, [illegible]

The Lawrenceville School is well endowed, has magnificent buildings for a preparatory school and good grounds [illegible] not compare to Andover and Exeter in Scholar[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] for even if the [illegible]
of instructors may be
good there is not
[illegible]
[illegible], and this in
end is the more [illegible]
[illegible] part of any [illegible]
[illegible]

The wind grows [illegible]
and sharper every [illegible]
I have no every day
winter suit and shall
be go the city soon
get one, as well as
do other "shopping." I [illegible]
a stove which I [illegible]
the last week. [illegible]
[illegible] beautiful as it [illegible]
but it is strong and
[illegible] without [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] burns too much [illegible]
[illegible] es too much [illegible]
[illegible] most of the [illegible]
[illegible] up the chim[illegible]
[illegible] boy named [illegible]
[illegible] Bellefonte has [illegible]
[illegible] class. There is [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Pennsylvania [illegible]
the college, so that [illegible]
[illegible] seems too much
like a local [illegible]
With much [illegible],
Yours [illegible]
[illegible]

Princeton N.J.

November [illegible]

Dear Papa

The Princeton [illegible] the annual meeting here [illegible] can see their [illegible] found about the [illegible]. I suppose that they are [illegible] Princeton graduates.

The Freshmen have [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] reception at [illegible] McCosh's on Saturday evening from seven to [illegible]. All of the Freshmen have [illegible].

[illegible] John Adel of [illegible] [illegible] give a short talk [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible]

the college students.

I saw Frank Adams on Saturday. He can ride up [illegible] frequently [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is only five miles away.

I wrote to Bert Miller, some time ago but he seems [illegible] to have [illegible] [illegible] letter.

It is only half past [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] one of our recitations, from five to six, by [illegible] light. While you are eating supper we are in recitation.

Hall dues and the purchase of a stove with [illegible] incidentals have consumed what money I had left from what [illegible] brought.

[illegible] Please send
me eighty-five dollars.
I have a debate [illegible]
from Saturday in [illegible]
the question: "Resolved, that
silver should be demoni-
tized." I am on the
negative. It is a hard
question to get an enter-
ed a speech on.
With much love,
Your son
[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.,
November 22 1905.

Dear Papa,

Rev. Dr. [illegible] preached this morning, a regular Presbyterian sermon.

About three fourths of the college went to New Haven yesterday to see the annual championship football game with Yale. Princeton won. I did not go. It was very quiet here.

Walter Scott is spending to day here with one of his Philadelphia friends.

I will let you know when [illegible] Lawrenceville [illegible]

[illegible]

beast. It has been seen
about here for three year
and probably escaped fr
some menagerie in the
first place. It is the on
wild thing of which I
have heard in New Je
although there are some
rabbits about.

My side won the debate
on Friday evening. It wa
the silver question.

We have four days vac
tion at Thanksgiving.
is a great deal to do how
ever and they will be
very acceptable. We ha
only one half day off
in the week. At Ando
we had Wednesday aft
ernoon; here we have
only Saturday, the last
vacation being at Eas

[illegible] [illegible].

The bed room [illegible] [illegible] cold I like to sleep in a [illegible] room but it is uncomfortable, getting to bed and getting up, [illegible] it is cold enough for [illegible] to [illegible].

Examined the draft all night.

Wait much love

Your dear

Rob

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dear Papa,

The only thing which I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at present, is a pair of link cuff buttons.

The college men are [illegible] [illegible] this evening for the foot ball championship which Princeton has won.

It is after bed time now, with much love

Your son

Ro[illegible]

Princeton N. J.
Dec. 3, [illegible]

[illegible] Papa,

[illegible] examinations begin on Monday and last a week and two days. [illegible] are inevitable and [illegible] [illegible] come! Every one [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] by fair means or foul. Winter has laid [illegible] [illegible] for several weeks but has been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the exercise of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of Novel [illegible] [illegible]

home Wednesday on Thursday
most probably Wednesday
[illegible]

There were two [illegible]
and a hat stolen out
of the entry of our boa-
ing house as we were
at supper this evening.
one heard any one co[illegible]
in. There have been seve[illegible]
such thefts lately. Fortu-
nately I have lost nothi[illegible]
yet.

The [illegible] is [illegible]
to put down [illegible]
measures have been
ken to make the [illegible]
of it [illegible]
to be heavily [illegible]
and to be [illegible].

I have been asked [illegible]
buy for the [illegible]
[illegible]

"Princetonian" the college organ. It seems to me however that whatever good the "Philippian" may have done me, it is unwise to waste time at the beginning of a college course on a paper such as college papers are. Time is too [illegible]

Any examination could [illegible] swiftly and [illegible]

With much love,

Your son

[illegible]

Princeton N. J.
Jan. 7, 1885

Dear Papa.

Arrived safely this morning. We came around by Sunbury, although we did not go to the town itself but turned toward Harrisburg at Selinsgrove Junction. Mr. Pabrikin had forgotten to give Peggie her ticket which he had bought and Peggie had to pay her way on the cars. We arrived in Phila at ten o'clock and went to the [illegible]

morning

I have asked every o
in the first division
about the "groups". There
only one man in th
first general group,
I thought, Neher from
Troy. In the second
general group there
no one who was i
six first specific groups. T
are two more besid
myself who are in
five first specific
groups and two seco
groups. So I stand el
second third, or fou
in the class.

It is very cold he
now, and there was
slight snow last ni

Princeton, N. J.
Jan. 17, 1885.

Dear Papa,

Mr. Welsh of the Indian Rights Association lectured here this evening on the Indian Problem. He is the same gentleman I think who wrote some articles in the Independent last year on the solution of the Indian question. He is a very entertaining speaker and filled completely with his subject. Rev. Dr. Zabriskie preached this morning.

A [illegible]

[illegible] so that these [illegible] to day and the students have moved out of it until it shall be repaired.

The cold has abated somewhat, but much of the snow remains, — enough to make good sleighing on the level ones soil, but too little to make it on this funny track.

A week from Thursday is the day of prayer for Colleges. It will be observed here as usual. Dr. McCosh made some [illegible] this morning on the tendency of students to turn the day into a holiday, [illegible]

the fact when Dr McCosh speaks on any moral question especially in it bearing on college life he gets excited and with him it is only a step from excitement to anger.

The preaching here is not nearly so good as it was at Andover. The great difference is more apparent now than ever.

I was asked yesterday to enter the contest for the position of Freshman editor on the Princetonian. It takes too much time.

With much love,

Your son,

[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
Jan. 24, 1886.

Dear Papa,

More snow fell last night and to day has been ideal wintry weather.

Dr. Patton [illegible] this morning and a young minister from Easton conducted the afternoon chapel. Rev. Richard Harlan from Kentucky who graduated here in '81 [illegible] this evening. I heard them [illegible] Harlan [illegible]

We have had to write a
essay on "The American
Common School System
its Merits and Defects"
we are required to
hand in two more
on Feb 27. One is to
be on the "American
System of Government
its Merits and Defe
and the other is
to be on an optio
al subject. The requir
ones are on very ha
neyed subjects and a
not allow very mu
room for original
work.

Dr. Pearson of Phila
will conduct the se
vices here on the "D
of Prayer for College

College recitations in the afternoon and Dr. McCosh earnestly requested that the season should be one of meditation and sober mindedness.

I have some time to read now, even after going to the gymnasium every other day for an hour. Began Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico" on Friday.

Good much [illegible]

[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
Jan [illegible] 1886

Dear Papa

Dr Murray preached this morning and to hand in the afternoon I have just returned from the lecture to young men by Dr. Patton. These lectures are delivered each Sunday evening. There is a great deal of deep religious feeling here now, although it is working silently. Meetings are held every evening and after-meetings are held for young men. Dr. Pierson [illegible]

Prayer for [illegible] and on
the following day, and
the result is apparent
in the deep interest al-
ready arising [illegible]
legs men. It seems very
much as though there is
to be a great revival.

I received a "Phillipean"
the other day containing
an account of the clo-
supper of '86, my old clo-
Following is an extract
from Dr. Bancroft's spee
"Immaturity is often mi-
taken for depravity; the
mischievous boy of to-
unformed, possibly clu[illegible]
and slow of thought o
speech, can by his persist
energy, by his high amb
ons and faith in him
self, by his [illegible]

his pure character attain to happiness and to use fulness, and to a measure of success and distinction which will reflect lustre on his school and all connected with him."

The stars have come out from behind the clouds which have overcast the sky for the past week, and blink at January as it does.

I have had very little time to read during the past week. Systematic work lessens the labor of study a great deal, so that I can accomplish much more than a good many. Regularity and application are necessary

[illegible]

The accounts on the Phila. Times must be taken cum grano salis, when they are from Princeton. Princeton seems to be a capital mark for [illegible] and [illegible]

With much love

Your [illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
Feb. 7, 1886.

Dear Papa

I did not go to the College Chapel this morning but heard Mr Hinsdale at the First Church. There was communion.

The cold has moderated and it is probable that it will rain to morrow.

I have finished my two essays for Prof. Hunt the instructor in English. Have not copied them yet. The 1st [illegible]

and the work in Hall
occupy a great deal of
time if done faithfully.
Depew will probably lec-
ture here this week.
The debate between Dr.
McCosh and Pres Eliot
was very sensatiefactory
McCosh is getting too
old to enter personal
debate. His faculties
now must work in
private. In public he is
bidgety and ill-at-
ease. I think that there
will be a new presi-
dent here before we
graduate. A younger
and more energetic
man is needed.
We have changed the
[illegible]
[illegible]

come for breakfast be
fore nine or ten o'clock
so instead of having
a warm dinner at
one we have a lunch
and have dinner at
half past five.
On Friday it was so
very cold that some
of the recitations were
omitted. On division
back only one but some
of the others had no
recitations whatever.
Last month [illegible]
[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
Feb. 14, 1886.

Dear Papa,

This is a beautiful spring day, and the large lawn in front of old Nassau is green and fresh and the old elms spread their broad, gorgeous arms over it.

Prof Shields preached this morning a very poor, tedious and tiresome sermon. Dr. Mat[illegible] of Phila. preached in the Episcopal Church but I did not go.

[illegible]

now than ever. By the
persistent endeavors
of three or four of us
we the class of 19 ha
passed resolutions
strongly condemning
hazing. My mind is
now free from that
care.

We had a preliminary
debate in Hall last
night to decide three
judges from the
faculty. upon four
debates to represent
our hall division con-
sisting of about 80
or 90 in a final
debate to be made
several weeks between
four from our di-
vision and four

was the only Friend
man who got on. There
have been two Friend
men chosen for
several years to par-
ticipate in the debate.
Depew is to lecture
here on Thursday
evening and I shall
probably go to hear
him. Knowledge of
such men is one
of the objects of be-
ing away from
home.

I wrote an article
for the Princetonian
yesterday. Last evening
a member of our took
supper with two Young
Freshmen in our
class. I learned some

French system of
colleges. It is very
different from our
It is time to go
to Prof Johnston's opt
or [illegible] lecture.
[illegible] much [illegible]

Princeton N. J.
Feb. 21 '16.

Dear Papa,

The subject for the extempore debate on Wednesday evening is "Ought the Fifteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution to have been adopted." We do not know on which sides we are until Wednesday morning. The question is an old one and it is hard to find any literature on the subject.

Dr. McCosh presides

this morning Prof. Green
of the Seminary conduc-
ted evening chapel
and Dr. Zabriskie pre-
ed in the evening.
Hon. Chauncey M. Depe
lectured here on Thurs-
day evening on "The
[illegible] sles". It was
one of the best lec-
tures I ever heard
Dr McCosh introduced
him and gave nume-
ous exhibitions of
his old Scottish blu-
ness. Thing were no
arranged to suit
him so he stood up
and interrupting sup-
in his lecture sai
"If the young men
who were managing
this lecture would co-

up on the platform; he would just like to say a word about them. He was very angry. Depew soothed him by telling in his lecture of the sterling integrity and hard learning of the loyalist Scotchman "Jimmie" smiled and was at peace.

We have a holiday tomorrow. The class orators, one from each class, speak in the morning. I was nominated for the position, but declined. In the afternoon there is an exhibition in the [illegible]

[illegible]

come up last Sunda
under a warm sun
has paid dearly fo
it.

With much love
Your son
Rob

Princeton, N. J.
Feb. 28, '86.

Dear Papa,

The debate of which I
[illegible] you, came off on
Wednesday evening. It
is the most important
of the eight or nine con-
tests in Hall during
the year. Dwight, '86, won
first prize and I
won second. This is
the first time [illegible]
the contest [illegible]
[illegible]

man has ever won a
of these pages. I am ver
well satisfied, as all of
the contestants from the
Junior and Sophomore
Classes were defeated, a
all the Seniors [illegible]
[illegible]. I have only one
"Would" containing the
notice and so can't be
one. The Freshman essa
are due on Friday
evening.

Dean Murray preached
this morning, a sermon
better than his usual
[illegible] Prof Taylor [illegible]

[illegible] for [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
doctrine, although, I suppose,
I want venture to
preach doctrine to day.
President Eliot of Har-
vard was down here
yesterday. He was with
Dr. McCosh and walked
along definitely. He was
at chapel in the morn-
ing.
It has been very cold
for the past few days.
The sun is shining [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Rev. Gen Anderson lectured
on Thursday evening, on
Cavalry on a Steamboat
It would have delighted
a country audience.

I have a debate in
hall on Friday evening
on American Interference
in the affairs of other
nations.

With much love
[illegible]
[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
March 7, '86.

Dear Papa,

There was to be a great storm to day according to Weggins but it is one of the pleasant days which are very few in March at Princeton.

I had a letter from Mr. Senanton on Monday congratulating me on the taking of the prize in debate, a notice of which he had seen in the New York Tribune

wished to be remembered
to you. Jow, he said, was
going to Iowa to engage
in the lumber business.
It was a very kind let-
ter.

I was down at Row-
ensville to hear Prof.
Churchill of Andover read.
It was excellent. I saw
Frank Adams. He was
up here on washing-
ton birthday.

I was out riding yes-
terday afternoon with
a son of Dr. Poston of
the seminary. The semi-
nary Professors here
have a more pleasant
and easy road than

there at Andover. I should like to hear Profs. Tucker, Harris and Moore preach here.

The annual banquet of the New England Preparatory School Association will be ~~heed~~ next Saturday evening. Either Dr. Bancroft or Mr. Comstock will be down. I shall be glad to see them. I have a toast on "The New Members." All who have ever attended preparatory schools in New England are members of this Association. Its object is to increase [illegible]

in New England schools
Prof. Orris preached his
morning. I believe he
was formerly a resident
of Perry or Mifflin Co.
I don't know which. He
may have been Snyder.
At any rate he seems
to be familiar with
that part of the coun
and also with Huntingdon
I have not heard from

[illegible]

With much love,
Your [illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
March 13, 86.

Dear Papa,

The first annual dinner of the New England School Association of Princeton College came off [illegible] night. It was a great success. Mr. Comstock was there, also teachers from Exeter, Williston and Hareford. Dr. McCosh, Dean Murray, Profs. Packard and Marquand were there. Old Dr. was at his best. His Scotch wit [illegible] out all evening. He [illegible] and made a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

a toast. I was the only Freshman who had a toa[illegible] I think the influence of this banquet and of the Association will be felt in New England Schools. [illegible] was very glad to see M[illegible] Cornstock again. He took his Freshman year at Prin[illegible]ton, but left on account of malaria and went to Amherst.

Dean Murray preached a very good sermon this morning on, "Other foundation can no man lay th[illegible] that is laid &c." The Dean's sermons as a rule are not very deep.

I received "very honor[illegible] [illegible]" [illegible]

The contest was a very close
one. One of the judges afte
wards apologized to me
because I did not get
first prize. He said one
of the judges was in fa-
vor of mine for first
prize, but finally grading
the essays, the rank of
the first three were respec
tively 94%, 93, 92. So I did
not get first. He said mine
showed the deepest thought;
all of which, I thought, was
very unnecessary to be
said. My disappointment was "what
are the elements of perma
nent popularity in Litera
ture?"

written debate. Written deb
are discouraged here. The
aim is to enable one to
speak from notes or with
them, with the same fac
ity and effect as from
written manuscript.

The time will soon be
up, in which rooms can
be bought from graduat
ing students. It is the
custom for men at the
end of the first year
to secure rooms from
the graduating class
for the rest of the coo
The time is almost up
and rooms can be no
bought at a cheaper pr
than before or after.

[T]hey seem pleasant too
[m]any disadvantages, incon-
[v]eniences and discomf-
[o]rts to be kept for the
[f]ew years. There are now
[s]everal excellent rooms
[f]or sale in the best
[do]rmitory. Either of room
[w]hich possess all ad-
[v]antages and are the
most pleasant and
[c]omfortable. The prices are
[f]rom one hundred dol-
[l]ars upward. I have
[l]ooked at some and
[l]ike them very much.
I have made an agree-
[m]ent for [illegible]
[b]efore coming to you.
I can get

one for $100. I can move
some of my old furn-
ture, which is not of a
very high grade, into the
room, sell the rent, and
have a very comfortable
and good but not rich
or gaudy room. Can I
make any such arrange-
ment? I would then be
settled for the rest of
the course.

With much love

Princeton, N. J.
March 23, 1886.

Dear Papa,

The examinations come off in two weeks and last eight days. Over three weeks a year are occupied by examinations. It seems almost that there are too many.

The spring vacation is from April the 14th to the 2nd. I shall not go home, as it is hardly worth while

when the summer [illegible]
comes so closely after
beginning on June 23d. The
second term is very
short Besides I shall
move in the spring vac-
tion and have some wo[illegible]
to do.

The weather has been
fine for some days
past, but to day the Mar[illegible]
wind and clouds are
both loose.

We have finished algebra
and are taking
advanced work in so-
thing which are

In your last letter you asked how much money I would need to finish the year. If I should not buy a room it would be not very large. The college bill for next term will probably be somewhat under $100. The only money needed outside of that would be for clothes and travelling. But if I buy a room it will require another $100.

My pocket book is at present in a very "un-plethoric" condition. I [illegible]

have to pay for the new
room at once. Please [illegible]
me [illegible]. That will be [illegible]
ficient to buy a room
and pay for moving [illegible]
thing.

With much love,
Your son,
Rob.

Princeton, N. J.
March 28, '86

Dear Papa,

I rec'd the draft.

Yesterday clouds have drifted away and Princeton has put on Sabbath garment and radiant brightness.

Dr. Gordon of Boston preached here this morning. He is a magnificent preacher. His head is large, powerful, his hair gray, and he is himself a [illegible]

man, with a strong an
beautiful voice.

I walked by the cem
tery this afternoon on
my way home from
parish Sabbath schoo
where I have been te
ing for several mon
It is a profitable wa
of spending part of Sun
day afternoon. The gra
in the cemetery was
gnning to grow gree
and the monotonous
flowerless grave vine
twined everywhere ove
the tombs. I stopped
the middle of the cemete
beside two graves

by side. The one had been chipped by irreverent hands. It was Aaron Burr's. The other, unmolested had once been covered by a white slab. The water had darkened the stone, into gray. It was Jonathan Edwards' grave. Edwards and Burr. I think of the contrast now, -- together only in the earth. Dr. McCosh's only son lies near by. I suppose the old Doctor and his pleasant Scotch wife will some time sleep near their son.

I [illegible]

Hall office last week.

Our bible lectures under Prof Hunt have been finished. They were very pleasant.

Warm weather is not conducive to diligent application, and one by one, fellows are seeking more open air enjoyment.

Cook must look,

Your [illegible]

[illegible]

Princeton, N.J.
April 11, '86

Dear Papa.

April is even more fickle than March. It is very cold to day and it has snowed and rained alternately all afternoon.

Dr. Zabriskie preached in Chapel this morning. You have probably been some of his [illegible] in the [illegible]

the First Church to hea
Mr Hinsdale.

Dr. Gordon, who wa
here last Sunday, re
mained Monday and
Tuesday and did so
good work. On Tuesd
morning Dr. McCosh a
nounced that Dr. Gord
would preach in the
evening, and intend
probably to say tha
as "this would be the
last opportunity to he
Dr. Gordon, he hoped
all would be prev
he did say, "I trust
will be the last op
[illegible]

of hearing Dr Gordon."
With his characteristic
Scotch stupidity he fail-
ed to see the mistake.
Larger numbers of the
college men attend re-
ligious services, even
though not compulsory,
than attended such
lectures as Roosevelt's.
Examinations begin
on Wednesday with
Homer. They last a
week. We have them
every day except Sun-
day. The week is very
distasteful to [illegible]

I have finished reading
Prescott "Conquest of
Mexico" and am well
in the "Conquest of Peru"
They are both excellent

Princeton, N. J.
April 11, 1886

Dear Papa,

Dean Murray preached this mornings. He will conduct a "Service of Song" this afternoon. The Dean professes a great relish for hymnology, but it seems to me to be a very forced relish. He was one of the editors of the Presbyterian Hymnal.

Four of our examinations are over, occupying as many days. Each one re-

of steady, hard writing, with no intermission. Yesterday we had Algebra, the hardest of all. The paper was the most difficult ever given here. There were many questions on the theory and abstractions of algebra never before given to an but hard graduate. I shall bring all my papers home in the summer. They are monuments of dryness and difficulty.

I was elected director of the Tennis Association; also delegate to the New Jersey Young Men's Christian Association Convention at Burlington. I declined the latter as it would take

two days out of next term, and I would have to make them up.

Vic need not send me the Presbyterian and Independent as I see them in the Reading Room here. I have access to two Reading Rooms, the one containing all the religious papers and periodicals, and the other all secular journals and magazines.

I was at a lecture the other evening to hear Dr. Chauffeur of New York. The lecturer told a good story. It was worth going to hear and see Dr McCarthy [illegible]

[illegible] has been [illegible]

welcome this week as I have been working nearly all afternoon and evening every day.

Cuck much [illegible]

[illegible]

Princeton N. J.
May 16 1886

Dear Papa.

A day has been [illegible]
and clear after a [illegible]
of rain and [illegible]

Prof Patton [illegible]
the morning [illegible]
Cabin by dinner [illegible]
a wonderfully keen [illegible]
[illegible] man and [illegible]
rapidly and [illegible]
will be communion [illegible]
afternoon. Once in the
[illegible]

spring there is commun-
on in the chapel. We
[illegible] my many [illegible]
[illegible]

I [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] came down with
the [illegible] wine which
was he have [illegible] a
[illegible] [illegible] that the
[illegible]

We had the [illegible]
[illegible] in the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] morn-
ing. [illegible] was on a
[illegible] on [illegible] [illegible]
by his [illegible] [illegible] of
[illegible]

I received the [illegible]
have paid my [illegible]
[illegible] have to go up to [illegible]
York soon to get a [illegible]
I have not finished
yet the life of Agassiz
which you gave me on
Christmas. I [illegible]
much. It is not [illegible]
but his life was [illegible]
good and patient [illegible]
in certain [illegible]
to read it [illegible]

[illegible]

Your [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dear Papa,

There was a heavy rain last night and today is hot and [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I do not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible]

Coal [illegible] [illegible] Harmer [illegible] [illegible] one [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

He was here on a tis[illegible]
and left the same [illegible]
[illegible]
Philadelphia [illegible] thank.

I gave the room ag[illegible]
[illegible] to Mr. Debrow. [illegible]
was all right. [illegible]
[illegible] must be [illegible]
every year. The college [illegible]
requires it, in order
that a student may [illegible]
abandon his room and
pay [illegible] rent. The $100
I paid was for the
room. [illegible] or other
college rooms are boug[illegible]
and sold by the [illegible]

take [illegible] and [illegible]
them. Some positions are
more valuable than
others. Some [illegible]
for as high as $700.
[illegible] of the
[illegible] paid to the [illegible]
[illegible]
at the end of a [illegible]
year are [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
which have been [illegible]
[illegible] by [illegible] of the
graduating [illegible] are
sold to [illegible] of the
lower [illegible].

does not seem right but
it is the one that pre-
vails at all colleges I
know of.

I hear good reports
of Will from some New
York boys in our ca-
[illegible] knows
him.

A cool breeze would be
very pleasing to day.

With much love,

Your son,

[illegible]

Princeton, N. J.
May 20. 56.

Dear Sofa

I was in New York yesterday to buy some clothing. Your brother took breakfast at the Manhattan Club. It is a fine place. Your [illegible] influence among the [illegible] for men of other [illegible] [illegible] as at the Club.

It is very [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

the sermon fees short of the
one in Drummond's "Natural
Law in the Spiritual World" on
the same text.

The examinations were begun
in a week or so. They [illegible]
difficult as these are the [illegible]
[illegible] of the year and [illegible]
tion depends much on them.

[illegible] received an invitation
week before last to go to
Andover. It is impossible
although it would be [illegible]
and to see old friends [illegible]
Class Graduate the Spring

I can hear the [illegible]
a little [illegible] [illegible]
beyond the edge of the
campus. Instances make it
sound soft and pleasant.

With much love,

[illegible]

Princeton N. J.
June 6, 1886.

Dear Papa,

Dr. Hodge of the Seminary preached this morning. He has such a weak voice that I could not catch all of his sermon. It is a very pleasant day warm and a gentle breeze.

The examinations begin on Friday 11th and are over on Friday 18th, so that I could be home on Saturday 19th. I think I shall stay during commencement which is over on June 23d, so I shall probably be home June 24th. This is rather later than much school and [illegible]

but it is atoned for by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the fact, which season [illegible] prefer.

As visitors begin to come in for commencement Dr. McCosh has more opportunities to show his Scotch bluntness. I like to watch the old Doctor. He often forgets and walks up the aisle in church with his hat on.

Sundays are welcome day. They bring rest and renewal of strength.

With much love,

[illegible]

Princeton N. J.
June 13, 1886.

Dear Papa

We have had two examinations and beginning on Monday we have four more in succession. They are long and wearisome.

Rev. Leonard W. Bacon of New Haven, the son of the great Leonard Woolsey Bacon preached in one of the town churches the evening I went to hear him. The sermon was very pompous, and the preacher himself seemed to me to be the kind of a man from whom a fanatic is made.

Dr. McCleosh will preach the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class next Sabbath morning. It is generally I learn a very long discourse. The Dr. is getting very bad. He was once a pomerantic man and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] when [illegible]
was a student there. [illegible]
recognizes that a college's [illegible]
a success in athletic [illegible]
considerably the size of the [illegible]
coming classes. Still he wishes
to restrict athletics as much
as possible. I think it would
ease the Doctor and he knows
that the size of Princeton's [illegible]
man class was larger than Yale.
He says hazing is a barbarous
practice introduced from Yale.

I suppose Mary will be home
shortly after this letter reaches
you. Deal of home and the [illegible]
of nothing to be done will be
very pleasant after a long [illegible]

I shall be home either on
Wednesday 20th or Thursday 20th [illegible]
ably the latter.

Will much love

Your [illegible]

University of Edinburgh, where

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